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FUNCTIONS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES  
UNDER THE NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

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FUNCTIONS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

UNDER THE NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

[Following are translations of articles on the above subject, selected from a Czechoslovak source. Additional source information accompanies each article]

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## THE NEW ARRANGEMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CZECHOSLOVAK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND THE SLOVAK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

(Following is the translation of an article in  
Vestník Československé Akademie Věd, Vol 69, No  
5, Prague, 1960, pages 501-506.)

Now that our society has attained a degree of development as expressed by the constitution of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and by the new territorial organization of the State, the problem of regulating the relations between the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences (CSAV) and the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAV) has become acute. The problem consists of the creation of a single supreme scientific institution in Czechoslovakia. The economic and cultural development of Slovakia has attained a degree at which Slovak scientific work no longer has to occupy itself with the solution of problems of merely a Slovak character, but can now fully participate in nationwide and basic scientific problems. Scientific research activity can now be intensified and a unified scientific organization can assure a more far-reaching participation of science in the further development of a socialist Czechoslovakia. For this reason, the Presidium of the CSAV and the Committee (Lit. "chairmanship") of the SAV held joint deliberations regarding the current situation in the organization and direction of science, and decided on several preliminary principles which will make it possible to create a unified scientific organization. In order to make the direction of scientific and research activity possible from a single center it was decided to integrate the SAV into the CSAV (while maintaining its name) and thus to create a supreme scientific institution of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, i.e., the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. The political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia approved this proposal for the new arrangement of the relations between CSAV and SAV, and left it to the president of CSAV, Minister Academician Zdeněk Nejedlý and to the Chairman of SAV, Member Correspondent of the CSAV, Andrej Širacky, to carry out these measures so as to make them effective on 1 July 1960.

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The joint proposal for the temporary measures which are to make possible the creation of a single scientific organization directed from a single place sounds as follows:

a. Membership in the Academies.

The SAV becomes an indivisible part of the CSAV. In the future only members of the CSAV will be elected. Members of the SAV will gradually be elected to membership in the CSAV, so that membership in the CSAV and the SAV will, in time, become identical. Members of the SAV who are not yet members of the CSAV will take part in the work of the various sections of the SAV. All members of the SAV and members of the CSAV active in Slovakia are to form an official "Group of SAV Members."

b. Organizational Structure of the Academies.

In the interest of the unified direction of Czechoslovak science, the organizational activities of the Academies are herewith arranged as follows:

The main duties of the general assembly of the SAV are: To elect a president, a presidium, and members of the SAV; to discuss suggested long-range development programs for the whole of Czechoslovak science; to determine general guide lines for the activities of both Academies; and to discuss and approve reports of the presidium regarding the activities of both Academies.

The "Group of SAV Members" will be invited to the discussions of the general assembly.

The general assembly of SAV henceforth forms the "Group of SAV Members" whose main duties and privileges are:

To elect a chairman and committee members of the SAV Group; to discuss and approve reports of its activity; to solve basic organizational problems, such as the division of the Academy into sections corresponding to various scientific fields; and to discuss and recommend to the Presidium of the CSAV the solution of scientific problems necessary to the development of the nation's culture as well as to specific economic problems of Slovakia.

The Presidium of the CSAV and the Committee of the SAV.

The Presidium of CSAV will be augmented by the addition of two members of the SAV Committee, of which one will take part in the sessions of the presidium of the CSAV. (These members of the Committee of the SAV must be members of the CSAV.) Elections will be held in the Fall General Assembly of the CSAV. The presidium of the CSAV will, above

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all, solve the following basic problems:

The establishment and organization of working places and laboratories of the CSAV and the SAV; the approval of the scientific and research activities at these places of work of both Academies and the evaluation of results; the approval of State plans for fundamental scientific research work; the approval of the economic plan and budget of the CSAV and SAV; the approval of plans for international relations; the CSAV is to be the sole representative of Czechoslovak science in relations with foreign institutions; and the appointment and removal of scientific directors of all scientific places of work of the CSAV.

The main duties of the Committee of the SAV are: to follow the basic directives of the Presidium of the CSAV in the activities of its sections and in the scientific places of work which are under its authority; to discuss the plans of scientific research activities of the CSAV in advance of discussions within the Presidium of the CSAV; to discuss suggested new memberships to the CSAV from the ranks of scientific workers active in Slovakia and to transmit its point of view to the Presidium of CSAV; to be the executive organ of the Presidium of the CSAV in all personal and organizational questions regarding places of work under its authority; to suggest to the Presidium of the CSAV appointments and removals of leading directors of places of work under its authority; and with the permission of the Presidium of the CSAV, to solve short-term problems (even without previous discussions within the sections of the CSAV) in matters of foreign travel, the fulfillment of editorial plans, minor changes in approved new investments and working plans.

Sections of the Academies

Sections of the CSAV:

Since division into sections differs in both Academies, the Presidium of the CSAV will assign members of the SAV (after previous agreement with the SAV) to sections of the CSAV in accordance with the individual member's field of activity while, at the same time, taking the members' wishes into account.

In order to assure close contact between CSAV and SAV sections, some members of the CSAV active in Slovakia will be elected to the Presidium of every section of the CSAV.

Sections of the SAV:

The previous duties of the SAV sections and of the various places of work belonging to them do not change in

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principle. SAV sections will be expanded by members of the CSAV active in Slovakia. The Committee of the SAV will decide on the assignment of these members sections of the SAV, taking their individual wishes into account.

The sections of the SAV: will discuss annual and long-range scientific plans of its various places of work and coordinate them with sections of the CSAV; supervise the fulfillment of scientific plans in their places of work; make reports regarding the fulfillment of these scientific plans and submit them to the sections of the CSAV; suggest annual and long-range editorial plans and submit them to the sections of the CSAV; make suggestions regarding the development of individual places of work under their authority and other appropriate basic questions having to do with the development of pertinent scientific fields and to submit these suggestions to the sections of the CSAV.

For discussions of the various above-mentioned plans, the following procedure applies: Suggestions made by SAV laboratories in connection with the basic development of science in the CSSR, after having been worked out in collaboration with similar organizations throughout the nation, will be discussed by the sections of the SAV. The results will be handed to the sections of the CSAV; sectional suggestions will be processed by the pertinent bodies of the Presidium of the CSAV and summarized into a single proposal which is to be processed by the Committee of the SAV and, with annotation, to be submitted to the Presidium of the CSAV for the purpose of final decision.

Places of Work of the CSAV and the SAV

All places of work of the SAV are to become places of work of the CSAV. Previous places of work of the CSAV and the SAV are to form a unified network of working places of the CSAV. Working places administered by the Slovak Academy of Sciences are to be marked as: "Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences; particular name of the place of work; SAV."

The SAV is to carry out scientific activities in the spirit of the resolutions of the Presidium of the CSAV.

The CSAV directive on the establishment and abolition of places of work of 21 March 1958 henceforth applies to the establishment of scientific places of work throughout Czechoslovakia. Proposals for establishments or changes are handed on by the Committee of the SAV following hearings with the affected section of the SAV. Following this, the Presidium of the CSAV is to decide on the development of scientific research work in accordance with nationwide needs.



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Coordination and Direction

The CSAV is to insure supreme coordination and direction in the fields of fundamental research and scientific problems of fundamental economic significance. Committees of the CSAV, advisory boards on complex problems and scientific councils on fundamental problems (which either already exist or are to be created) are to be increased by the addition of further representatives of Slovak science and Slovak organizations. This is to be done in order to increase the efficiency in the execution of State plans for fundamental scientific research work and the education and training of scientific workers. State planning authorities for research are to collaborate closely with the sections of the CSAV and the Committee of the SAV.

In working out the national plan for fundamental scientific work, the CSAV will attend in full measure to the needs of Slovakia and to the practical exploitation of scientific research capacity in the laboratories of Slovakia.

The secretariat of the State Research Plan is to send all proposals which are subject to approval by CSAV sections also to the Committee of the SAV. The latter is to pass on these within comparable time limits and by the same methods as the sections of the CSAV.

The Scientific Research Plan of the CSAV

A) There will be one single planning commission of the CSAV, augmented by representatives of the chairman and by further members from Slovakia.

B) Planning and evaluation methods for scientific research work in work places of the CSAV and SAV.

The basic principle of creating a unified plan will be assured by means of unified planning methods. Based on directives issued by the Presidium of the CSAV, the pertinent CSAV and SAV laboratories are to discuss and coordinate their plans and submit them to the sections of the CSAV. The planning commission of the CSAV is to prepare a summary of the proposed plan which the Committee of the SAV is to discuss before its approval by the Presidium.

The Training of Scientific Workers

The Presidium of the CSAV is to work out a unified plan for the training of scientific workers with regard to the needs of all laboratories. It will take special care to insure that the training of Slovak aspirants is carried out at places of work in Czech regions, insofar

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as that is possible.

The Presidium of the CSAV and the Committee of the SAV will plan and direct the exchange of scientific workers and their adequate assignment to places of work in both academies in such a manner that the various institutions of the Academy receive the best possible workers.

The CSAV, in agreement with the SAV, is to set up a unified plan for aspirants: Proclaim joint job competitions for scientific aspirants; direct the training of regular and visiting aspirants, as well as the training of scientific workers beyond the degree of aspirant; select proper instructors; and issue uniform directives regarding the training of scientific workers.

The CSAV is to keep records of aspirants at laboratories and places of work which are under its jurisdiction and is to solve aspirants' problems according to uniform principles.

Publishing Activity

The publishing plan of the SAV is part and parcel of a unified publishing plan of the CSAV. The Presidium of the CSAV is to unify the publication of periodicals of both Academies from the national view point and from the view point of the needs of the various scientific fields. This is to be done with a view to avoiding undesirable duplication. For this purpose, the editorial staffs of the individual publications are to be merged.

The previous existence of both publishers, i.e., the Publishing House of the CSAV and the Publishing House of the SAV will be preserved. The Publishing House of the SAV is to be operated by the Committee of the SAV according to basic directives from the Presidium of the CSAV. Both publishing houses will conform to the approved unified publishing plan of the CSAV to their best ability.

To assure unified procedures in publishing activity, general directives will be worked out which are to take effect in the publications of both Academies and in their publishing institutions.

The Slovak publishing house, after discussions within sections of the SAV, is to submit suggested plans for themes and topics to the sections of the CSAV. These are to be passed upon by the publishing commission of the Presidium of the CSAV. Following this, they are to be submitted as a unit to the Committee of the SAV and later to the Presidium of the CSAV. Both publishing houses are to keep mutually informed about their planned topics and are to coordinate their activities as regards their foreign contacts, publicity, and basic scientific and economic problems.



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The publishing houses of the CSAV and SAV are independent members with full rights of the Association of Czechoslovak Publishers and are entitled to all basic publishing rights.

The bulletins of the CSAV and SAV are to merge as of 1 January 1961, at which date only one bulletin will be issued, namely the "Bulletin" (Vestník) of the CSAV. The editorial board of the "Bulletin" of the CSAV will be increased by the addition of Slovak committee members of the CSAV Presidium.

### Foreign Relations

The Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences is to become the only representative of Czechoslovak science as far as foreign relations are concerned. Laboratories of the CSAV and the SAV may deal with foreign citizens and foreign corporations without prior approval of the Presidium of the CSAV in an unofficial capacity only.

Foreign scientific relations of both academies are to be conducted according to a unified annual plan which is to be approved by the Presidium of the CSAV. The plan for foreign relations is to be part of the scientific research plans of the CSAV.

Proposals of CSAV laboratories are first to be approved by the chairs of the appropriate sections of the CSAV. The above mentioned procedure regarding the approval of scientific research plans for the laboratories of the SAV applies also to handling of plans for foreign contacts.

The procurement of passports for workers of both academies is to be handled by the office of the Presidium of the CSAV together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Visas will be obtained by the office of the Presidium of the CSAV from those countries which do not have consulates in Bratislava.

### Economic and Financial Problems

It is the province of the CSAV Presidium to procure and distribute financial and material means for its laboratories. The office of the CSAV Presidium, as well as the executive of the CSAV Presidium is to fulfill all economic and financial functions for both academies.

Laboratories operated by the SAV are to be operated by the Committee of the SAV as well as by the executive of the SAV Committee. The office of the SAV Committee acts in financial and economic functions in the manner of a budget organization of the second degree and, in functions of an investment character, in the manner of a major

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investor. Parallel arrangements apply to the remaining responsibilities of the office of the SAV Committee. Laboratories and places of work of the CSAV, as well as of those administered by the SAV, are considered budgetary organizations of the third degree as heretofore.

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WORK OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES UNDER  
THE NEW TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

[Following is the translation of an article by  
Dr. Miroslav Strida in Vestnik Ceskoslovenske  
Akademie Ved, Vol 69, No 5, Prague 1960, pages  
552-562.]

Thanks to the enduring efforts of the Czechoslovak working class, the fulfillment of the second Five Year Plan has essentially completed our socialist construction. In the interest of the further development of a mature socialist economy and culture in all parts of the country, the Central Committee of the Communist Party, as well as the government of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, approved a decree which reorganizes the territory of the state and simultaneously further intensifies socialist democracy in the activities of the national councils [Soviets?].

Socialism does not only signify the full and many-sided development of productive forces and the increase of living standards in the whole country, but must also take care of the development as well as the equilibrium of the various regions [oblasts]. Favorable circumstances were thus created for the direction and planned development of our entire economic and cultural life according to natural and economic conditions in the various parts of the country, as related to national needs as a whole.

On the basis of developing production forces, which are determined by social relationships and natural conditions within the borders of all countries, economic regions are formed which are the subject of economic and geographic studies. Objectively, these economic regions exist in various social systems. However, only with the coming of socialism, which socialized the means of production and collectivized the most important parts of the agricultural soil, did it become possible to plan their development according to the needs of the country as well as on the basis of the varying natural and economic conditions of the country's individual parts.

One can discern economic regions in various countries. Whereas in most cases their importance exists merely in being recognized and described, in the socialist countries these economic regions acquire an active and constructive importance. They become the basis and framework of regional planning and of the direction of the national economy. Scientific research thus gains the

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opportunity to participate with the planning agencies in the economic planning of the various regions. On the other hand, the planning agency may thus make decisions with greater knowledge of regional characteristics.

In addition to maintaining proportion and mutual harmony between economic groups and industrial branches, an important task is also that of creating and maintaining the proper proportions between the individual regions of a socialist country. Harmony between regional and national interests becomes indispensable, and problems of proper industrial and agricultural distribution, as well as regional economic planning become more and more important.

Even from the viewpoint of the regions themselves, it appears that their development becomes most efficient if each one takes up the economic specialization for which it has the most advantageous pre-conditions. This means, in other words, that it should be manufacturing the products which it can make most readily and inexpensively.

It is the task of economic geography to explore population and economic distribution and to study the causes which have led to a given condition and still influence it. The object of the study is the national economy of a country as generally dependent on natural conditions, distribution of population, culture, economics, industry, etc. In contrast to other disciplines, however, economic geography explores in its totality the mutual relationships between existing national economics and their pre-conditions. It does this on a regional and geographic basis.

If thus economic geography explores the development and distribution of production and population as well as their mutual relationships within a geographic entity, it is also able to divide the territory into its regions.

Economic regionalization, i.e., the division of a country into its economic regions, is thus a basically geographic task. It stands in the forefront of interest in many countries and a rich literature has been published on its problems. In it appear a number of differing viewpoints regarding concepts and working methods. However, the methods of economic regionalization can still be based on a variety of earlier territorial studies and works, as well as on various theories on regionalization. It is of course assumed that the results are to be critically evaluated.

During the last 40 years, economic-geographic division under socialist conditions reached its highest development in the Soviet Union. During that time, Soviet spe-

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cialists gained much experience and even arrived at general principles in the field of economic regionalization such as are currently valid for every socialist country. The solution of economic and geographic divisions is of course a very individual problem for every country so that, in addition to results gained in other, mainly socialist, countries, local experiences must be utilized. In our case, these local experiences are those of the area of Czechoslovakia.

\* \* \*

The history of regional surveying in our territory is quite old. The work of K. Koristka in the sixties and seventies of the last century were already quite important [see note #1]. For practical considerations of the administrative organization of the Czechoslovak territory, two earlier works, consisting of pre-World War II proposals of V. Dediny and J. Korcak, are most likely to find application. They were reviewed by J. Korcak at the first conference for economic Geography in Liblice in 1956 [see note #2]. A recent paper on the regional division of Czechoslovakia was published by M. Blazek [see note #3]. Although, according to the notion of those days, he considers the Republic to be one economic zone, he still mentions 10 to 11 possible economic sub-regions which, however, he does not specify more closely.

[Note #1] K. Koristka: The Natural [administrative] Regions [Kraje] of Bohemia, their Soil and Climate. Prague, 1885.

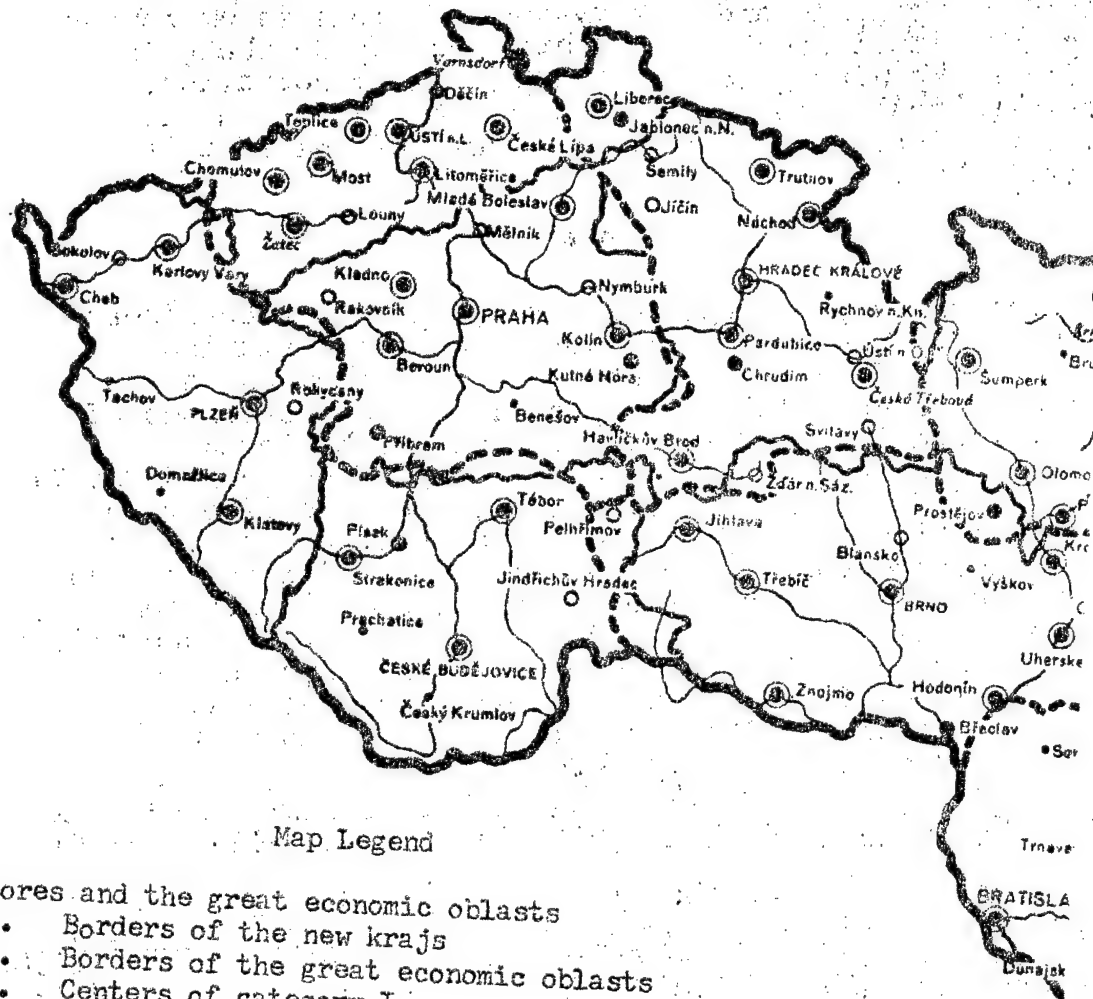
[Note #2] J. Korcak: The Development of Methods for the Regional Division of Czechoslovakia. The Economic and Geographic Division of Czechoslovakia. Sbornik, Prague, 1958. V. Dedina: The Regional Division of Czechoslovakia. Sbornik. Cs. spol. zemepisne (collected papers of the Czechoslovak Geographic Society). Prague, 1929.

J. Korcak: The Regional Division of Czechoslovakia. Statisticky obzor (Statistical Horizon), Prague, 1934.

[Note #3] M. Blazek: On the Problems of Czechoslovak Regionalization. Politicka Ekonomie, Prague, 1954.

Later, the State Planning Commission of the CSAV [Ceskoslovenska Akademie Ved - Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences] began systematically to study the economic regions of Czechoslovakia. Between 1955 and 1959, the regional problem became the main research task of the Department for Economic Geography of the Economics Institute of the CSAV, and of various places of work which were cooperating on this project. Based on an analysis of domestic and foreign experiences, an attempt was made to summarize

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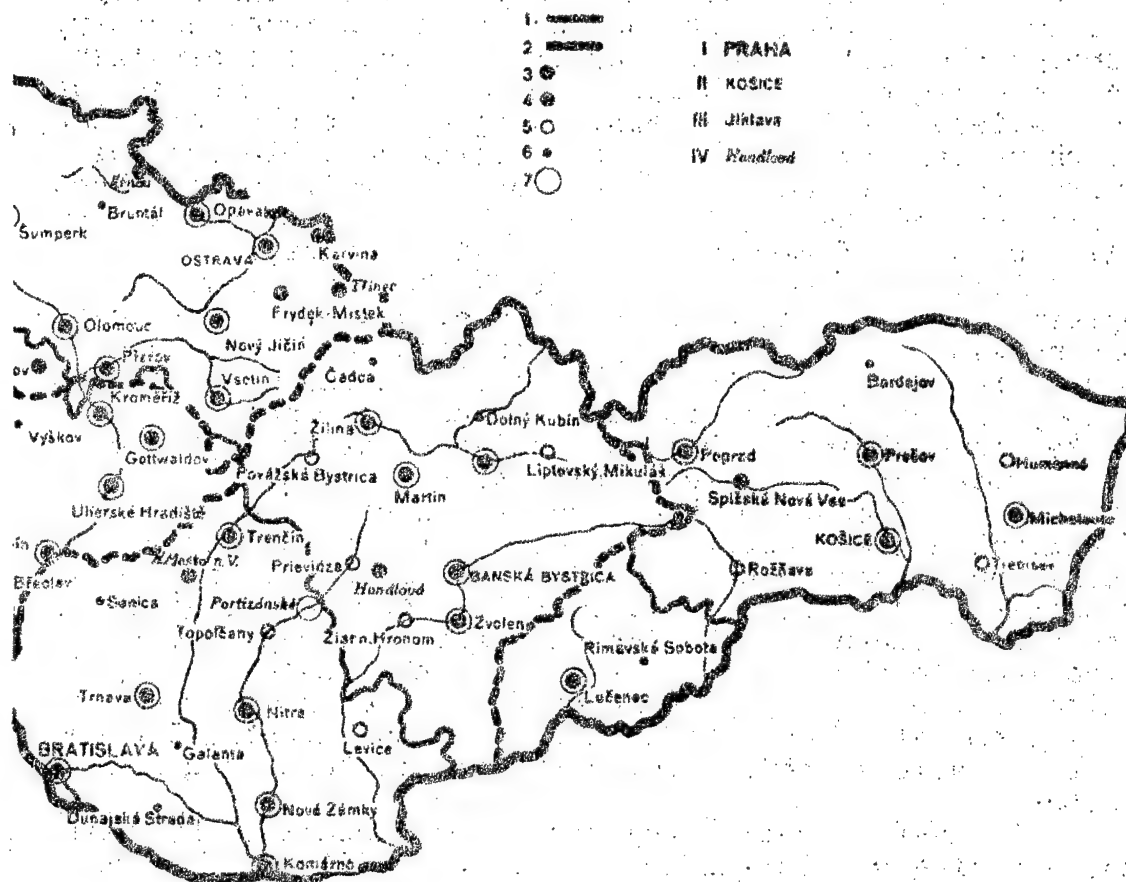
Map Legend

- Cores and the great economic oblasts
1. Borders of the new krajs
  2. Borders of the great economic oblasts
  3. Centers of category I
  4. Centers of category II
  5. Selected centers of category III
  6. Okres centers outside of category
  7. Cores of basic economic oblasts

- I. Capital city
- II. Centers of new krajs
- III. New okres centers
- IV. Economic cores which were not selected as okres seats



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the general principles of complicated economic regionalization and to outline their meaning and extent of application to conditions in Czechoslovakia.

1) As a result of territorial division of labor, economic regions actually exist. In Czechoslovakia, one may begin their study with an analysis of the distribution, structure, and interrelationships of the national economy, although the latter had its origins during the capitalist era. The regions are in approximate mutual balance so that none deviates from its general category. At the same time, the character, type and size of each is suitable for the general level of the country's economic development. Local conditions and the peculiarities of every region's position fall within the framework of the entire country.

2) The economic regions of Czechoslovakia quite apparently are in the process of development. It is therefore necessary to study the present state and development of distribution and interrelationships of the nation's economy and population, as well as their planned and anticipated development within the framework of the international cooperation between socialist countries.

3) In Czechoslovakia a system of economic regions of varying degrees developed because of diversities of nature, human settlement, and economics, as well as because of differing historical relationships between territories. A certain structural relationship exists between areas of various levels. More apparent are the basic developed regions which roughly consist of the big economic regions. The economically most outstanding and conveniently located cores of basic economic regions become centers of great regions.

4) Every economic region is characterized by some manufacturing specialization or by preconditions for the growth of its manufacturing, sometimes even non-manufacturing, specialized functions. As a rule, this specialization in Czechoslovakia is concentrated in economic cores -- industrial centers which are leading factors in the forming of economic regions.

5) As a result of its main economic functions, the structure of an economic region develops a) specialization, b) its industry and the installations which work for it, c) products and services which assure the local needs of the population. According to the character of specialization and the number of inhabitants, a certain territorial economic complex is then formed within this framework of natural variety and economic conditions. In Czechoslovakia it is apparent mainly in the cities and their surroundings, and it can be observed in the degree of development in internal economic relations, as expressed by transportation [see note].

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[Note] According to M. Strida-V. Havlik: The Economic Division of the Territory of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic. Prague, 1958. Materialy Ekonomického ustavu CSAV (Materials of the Economic Institute of the CSAV), pages 19-45.

During the study of the economic and geographic division of Czechoslovakia, certain working methods became significant according to which the basic data were collected. In regard to natural conditions it was thus convenient to pay attention to the relief of the terrain, to elevations above sea level, to natural raw materials and to hydrographic units. As for population distribution, attention was directed to sectors of the national economy to which population groupings belong, to cities and their functions, and to problems of raw materials and the necessary labor forces. In the field of economic conditions, one had to pay attention to the distribution of industrial plants, the specialization of agricultural production and to economic interrelationships, especially in connection with rail freight transportation, the bus network, and daily commuting.

In Czechoslovakia an important role is played by the interdependence of industrial production and urban centers or residential agglomerations which function as economic cores of the regions. The concept of regional economic cores of the proper class or degree of importance as economic, cultural, political and administrative centers for large surrounding areas, made it finally possible to find the size and number of economic regions and to determine their actual cores.

It is best to solve the complex problems of economic territorial division by means of partial studies made in cooperation among various research and supporting institutions. This is best for a country with a richly varied terrain, with diverse climatic and soil conditions, with a variety of mineral raw material sources, with a dense but unevenly settled population, which in some areas has been settled since the neolithic age, with age-old manufacturing traditions, with an extensive industry of varying distribution and a structure running mainly to small and medium size plants, with a mature but variegated agriculture, with a dense communications network, dense railroad and automobile traffic, with a high degree of economic specialization, and, finally, with well developed internal and foreign inter-relationships.

Thus, in order to obtain a wide exchange of opinions, the CSAV organized scientific conferences. The problem of economic regionalization was placed among the more important national research tasks. The First Conference on Economic

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Geography in 1956 dealt mainly with development of theoretical problems and a method of approach to regional grouping of the Czechoslovak Republic. [Note: The Economic Geographic Division of the Czechoslovak Republic. Volume I, Conference on Economic Geography in Liblice, 1956; Prague, 1958]. The Second Conference on Economic Geography in 1957, which saw the participation of many foreign specialists, particularly from the socialist camp, particularly discussed, among other things, the concept of economic cores which appeared suitable for the regionalization of economically developed countries with a high density of industry and population. Already on that occasion, certain preliminary proposals were made on the basis of the discussed principles of the economic-geographic division of Czechoslovakia. [Note: Economic Regions, their Demarcation, and Geographic Elaboration. Volume II, Conference on Economic Geography, 1957. Materialy EU CSAV (Materials of the Economic Institute, CSAV), 1959.] Especially close cooperation was taken up and maintained with the regional components of the State Planning Commission and the planning commissions of the various areas.

Regarding the methods of the economic regionalization of Czechoslovakia, it was likewise possible to obtain on-the-spot advice at geographic and economic working places in Poland, the GDR, and particularly in the Soviet Union. The scientific council of the Geographic Institute of the Academy of Sciences in Moscow at the end of 1957 turned its attention to the problems of the regional division of Czechoslovakia. [Note: A Report dealing with this was published in the magazine of the Institute. (M. Strida: Voprosy Ekonomiceskovo rajonirovanija Cechoslovakii. Izvestija AN, SSSR s. g., No 4, 1958).]

Among the results of the CSAV's work on the economic division of the Czechoslovak territory are not only studies on methods but also proposals regarding the demarcation of the economic regions of a higher and lower class.

135 urban settlements were found which more or less fulfilled a combination of five criteria (regarding industry, population, and transportation) for the selection of economic regional cores of class II. Of these centers, 46 were placed in a first category, 27 in a second, and the rest in a third, considerably mixed, category. On the basis of economic ties and natural conditions, the territory of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic was then divided into 68 so-called "Basic Economic Regions" of which each had one leading core. This was done even if occasionally a region appeared to have

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additional centers, also capable to assume future functions as a regional economic core of class II. [Note].

[Note] The basic economic regions of the Czechoslovak Republic. Materials of the Economic Institute, CSAV, Prague, 1958.

Also explored were the class I economic regions which took shape during the years of socialist construction. These have their links in previous developments and in conceptions of national economic development known before socialist development in this country. Seven such large economic regions [oblasti] were blocked out on the territory of Czechoslovakia: 1) Western Bohemia, with its main core in Plzen; 2) Central Bohemia, with Prague; 3) Eastern Bohemia with the leading core in the area of the cities of Hradec Kralove and Pardubice; 4) Northern Moravia with the main core in the area of Ostrava; 5) Southern Moravia, with the main core in Brno; 6) Western Slovakia, with the eccentricly located core in Bratislava; and 7) Eastern Slovakia, with the economic center in Kosice.

All in all, these regions [oblasti] are balanced in the size of their territories, the size of their populations and the extent of their economies. At the same time, each one maintains its distinctive economic direction. The central Bohemian regions, however, stood out above the average because of the extent of its industry, more than 28% of the industrial economy of Czechoslovakia being concentrated there. The regions of Western Bohemia and especially Western Slovakia decidedly exceeded the average area of economic regions, which was approximately 18,000 km<sup>2</sup>. The average population size per region, which was around 1.4 to 1.7 million, was markedly exceeded only in the two metropolitan regions containing Prague and Bratislava.

\* \* \*

The new territorial organization of the national councils [Soviets?] which came to life July 1, 1960, is based on the principles of democratic centralism, which is the main principle in the administration of a socialist state and the planning of its economic development. The reasons for the new administrative organization of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic come from the progressing socialist democratization of public and economic life. Along with this, progress must also be made by more intensifying the decentralization of the administration and planning of all components of the national economy. In addition, the needs of a rapidly developing socialist economic body demand that the territorial unit in which



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decentralized administration and planning is to take place be larger, more complex and, in contrast to the majority of the former counties and districts, more rounded out, economically stronger and more suitable.

For that reason it was decided to abolish the existing administrative regions [Krajs] and to create others in such a manner that their administration would become as compatible as possible with the economic regions [oblasts] which either already exist or are in the process of formation in the course of national economic development. At the same time, it was decided considerably to increase the areas of districts [okresy] without losing sight of their politics, economics and culture.

The new arrangement is to contribute to the further rapid development of the individual regions [oblasts] according to their most suitable natural and economic conditions, according to the even distribution of the national economy, and according to the gradual levelling of the standard of living in all parts of the country. At the same time, emphasis is being placed on the economic and organizational activity of the national councils which now administer or coordinate practically the entire economy which falls within their individual jurisdictions. A far more important need thus arose to make the administrative area of a national council into as viable an economic and geographic entity as possible.

Even in 1960, the territorial reform of Czechoslovakia remains a political matter. Nevertheless, it is the economic regions [oblasts] which are becoming the basis of the new territorial organization. Practical considerations of administration and control then decide when and to what degree the existence of these regions [oblasts] can be utilized. Once the principle of matching economic and administrative areas had been put into practice (which process cannot be stopped in any socialist country), the problem of the new territorial organization was brought into direct contact with research on the economic regions and economic geography of Czechoslovakia as a whole. [Note].

[Note] Srov. M. Strida: Economic Regions and the New Territorial Distribution. Politická Ekonomie, No 6, Prague, 1960.

The territory of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic was newly divided into 10 large administrative regions [kraje] plus the independent unit of the capital city of Prague and, on the second level, into 108 districts. The district administrations, equipped with equal, in some senses even larger, powers as the heretofore existing district administrations, were placed into 103 selected towns.



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If we compare the administrative district borders of the new territorial organization of Czechoslovakia with the basic economic regions which the CSAV has made into class II economic regions, we notice a considerable difference, especially in number and lay-out. The reason for this is that, as far as districts are concerned, economic and geographic viewpoints were subordinated to those of a purely administrative character, especially as, for example, the control of agricultural production is concerned. Still, a matching between the territories of the new districts and the basic economic regions was achieved in the cases of the following towns: Cheb, Banska Bystrica, Most, Sumperk, Martin, Litomerice, and others. There were even more cases in which the territory of basic economic regions was divided into two or more suitably selected territorial units. An example was the division of the area of Western Bohemia around Plzen into six parts, the division of the areas around Ostrava, Kolin, and Michalovce in Eastern Slovakia into three parts; the areas of Horni Ponitri, Liptov with Orava, Hodonin, and Karlovy Vary into two new district units.

More important in the geographic selection of economic cores was their significance as new district administrative centers. According to the principles of economic regionalization in a socialist country, the function of a regional center can, as a rule, best be carried out by a town in a favorable economic and geographic location, a town which is at present industrially or population-wise the most important, or will be so in the planning period. This reality was respected in the majority of cases, whereas the cases of Bruntal, Liptovsky Mikulas or Loun are isolated because other criteria predominated in their selection.

The selection of the seat of a national district council [ONV - Okresni Narodni Vybor] is not merely decided on the basis of its geometric location in the middle of the district, but rather by the core-like and central characteristics of the town, including the advantages of its location. Thus, the decision was correctly made even in the cases of Nove Zamky, Opava, Kutna Hora, Breclav, and Trebis, although these are located at the edge of their district territories. By the same token, the long-range selection of fast developing, advantageously situated towns is according to the principles of economic regionalization of Czechoslovakia. An example is Ziar, n. Hronom, into the district of which were placed such historic centers as Banska, Stiavnica and Kremnica.

Of the 46 centers which the CSAV in its work put in the first category, all were selected as seats of new district administrations with the exception of Ceska Tre-

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bova, to which the nearby existing center of Usti nad Orlici was preferred. Other exceptions are Trinec, because of its less suitable location, Zatec and Ruzomberok. Likewise, of the 27 centers placed in the second category, only four were not selected. Of all three categories, 88 towns were selected as centers of new district administrations. This is roughly 90% of all district centers. Of these, almost one half (42) became centers of the first category. Of 58 cores of the CSAV's basic economic regions [oblasts] four were not chosen as seats of new districts.

The borders of the great economic regions [oblasts] correspond substantially with the borders of the new administrative regions [krajs]. Only the regions of Western Slovakia, Central Bohemia, and Western Bohemia were divided into two parts each, primarily for the above-mentioned reasons, so that beside the Western Slovak administrative region there now exists a Central Slovak region. In addition to central Bohemia, there now is a region of Northern Bohemia, and in addition to Western Bohemia there is now also Southern Bohemia. [Translator's note: The preceding regions are administrative, i.e., "krajs".] In addition to this, the territory of the capital city of Prague was separated for administrative reasons as an independent unit and elevated to the level of a "kraj". In accordance with the development of economic regions [oblasts], the areas of Plzen and Karlovy Vary were combined as well as both Eastern Bohemian regions [krajs]; the "kraj" of Olomouc was joined with that of Ostrava; and Jihlava and Gottwaldov with Brno. As for Slovakia, Eastern Slovakia was combined into one effective unit. The krajs of the Danube Lowlands, Nitra and Bratislava were also combined. On the other hand, the former kraj of Jihlava, Gottwaldov and Liberec were divided up because they were no longer in harmony with their economic regions.

The splitting up of three large economic regions [oblasts] into two administrative units [krajs] of course necessitated a certain amount of detailed adjustment in the affected areas as well as in neighboring regions [oblasts]. Border changes for the new "krajs" and of first degree economic regions [oblasts], as described by the CSAV, may be observed in the incorporation of the heretofore economically less developed Lucenec Valley [Lucenecka Kotlina] and surroundings, whose economic relations are not yet definitely developed, into the neighboring territory. It can also be observed in the morphologically isolated and economically quite complicated Liberec Valley and surroundings. Small deviations are in the areas of Prostějov,

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Dacice, Valasske Klobouky, Zdar nad Sazavou, and Pelhrimov, i.e., all on the circumference of the kraj of Southern Moravia.

As the attached map shows, the borders of the economic regions [oblasts], which are economic-geographic units, and of the administrative regions [krajs], which are politico-administrative units, remain in general conformance with each other. A brief description of the new krajs will afford a glance at their main problems, economies and future development.

The capital city of Prague occupies only a small, densely populated area. However, because of the number of its inhabitants and the extent of its economy, it is on the same level as the other krajs. Its area was increased by only 13 km<sup>2</sup> so that a number of industrial and heavily populated suburbs and satellite centers remained beyond the borders of Prague. Following the experiences of the past years, Prague forms an independent regional unit with regard to its extensive industry, mainly machine building as well as because of its extraordinary stature as the country's central administrative seat and as a cultural center of national importance.

The kraj of Central Bohemia also has its seat in Prague. Economically it is a very strong unit which does not markedly differ from the area of the former Prague district. It merely was enlarged by the adjacent areas around Mlada Boleslaw, Kutna Hora, and Pribram. It has a developed and diversified industry in which machine building, mining and the chemical industry stand out. Extensive food manufacture and agricultural production serve the needs of its large population. The district is our largest agricultural region, the sugar beet being heavily represented. In the economically most developed parts, to which belong the surroundings of Prague are situated the main industrial centers of Kladno, Beroun, Kolin, and Mlada Boleslav. Increasing attention is deserved by three economically weak districts in the southern part of the region.

The kraj of Southern Bohemia also was expanded by the addition of small areas in the vicinity of Strakonice, Tabor, and some remote areas around Jihlava and Havlickuv Brod. A large part is occupied by the mountainous border districts. Although industry is still somewhat less developed, new machine building is spreading. Widespread is the textile industry and the traditional lumber and food economies.

Agriculture has a good foundation, which would allow the expansion of feed production, pork, and milk. In sparsely populated Southern Bohemia is situated the town

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Administrative Region [kraj]	Area Km <sup>2</sup>	%	Inhabitants (1 Jan 60) 1000's	Popul. Density per km <sup>2</sup>	No. of National District Councils ONV [Soviets]	% of indus- trial produc- tion	Arable land %	
Capital city Prague	815	0.1	997.5	7.3	5391	10	11.1	0.0
Central Bohemia	11,298	8.8	1256.7	9.2	111	12	10.7	11.7
Southern "	11,349	8.9	651.6	4.8	57	8	3.7	7.9
Western "	10,866	8.5	843.9	6.2	77	10	5.7	6.8
Northern "	7,817	6.1	1113.7	8.3	145	10	11.1	5.8
Eastern "	11,252	8.8	1216.4	9.0	108	11	10.0	10.0
Southern Moravia	15,019	11.7	1876.1	13.8	124	14	13.4	15.0
Northern "	11,066	8.7	1659.5	12.2	149	10	17.5	8.4
Western Slovakia	14,859	11.6	1717.7	12.6	115	12	6.7	16.6
Central "	17,970	14.1	1210.5	8.9	67	12	7.5	7.8
Eastern "	12,179	12.7	1039.0	7.7	74	9	2.6	10.0

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of Ceske Budejovice whose industry is now steadily expanding. Among the other industrial towns, the well-situated towns of Strakonice and Tabor are developing satisfactorily. The region of Southern Bohemia, a fairly remote unit, has lately begun to strengthen its economic ties, specially with Western Bohemia where similar development problems, typical of weak border areas, exist.

The kraj of Western Bohemia was created by combining the kraj of Plzen and Karlovy Vary, while some minor bordering territories were separated. The economic center of gravity lies in the Plzen and Sokolov bowl, while the remainder of the territory is of sub-average development. Plzen with its mighty Lenin Works and the traditional culture of Western Bohemia belongs to the most industrialized towns of the entire country. The town of Karlovy Vary grew up at the edge of the brown-coal bowl. It functions as a spa. Also, it has some industries. Agricultural production of the kraj does not markedly differ from that of Southern Bohemia. Also, the population density of the region outside of Plzen and Karlovy Vary is very much below average. Among the more significant urban centers should be mentioned Klatovy and the rebuilt town of Cheb.

The small kraj of Northern Bohemia was created by adding to the former kraj of Usti nad Labem the areas around Ceska Lipa Podborany and the remote valleys of the upper Nisa River. It is densely populated and has a number of industrial towns such as Most, Teplice, Chomutov, the twin towns of Litomerice and Lovosice, and Jablonec. Most heavily industrialized is Usti n. L., situated in an advantageous but cramped location, and Liberec, the largest town of the region, located remotely in the north-east. The mining of high-quality brown coal forms the basis of the region's economy. On this, in turn, are based an extensive chemical industry and electrical power generation. However, also represented are the branches of machine building, textile manufacture, metallurgy, and glass making. A degree of agricultural importance is enjoyed only by the area around Zatec and Litomerice. The raising of hops is important. The Bohemian North has particularly close economic ties with the region of Central Bohemia.

An economically outstanding and comparatively evenly balanced unit is the kraj of Eastern Bohemia. It is formed by the former krajs of Pardubice and Hradec Kralove, to which were attached the areas of the upper Jizera, Havlickuv Brod and Svitavy. As heretofore, its manufacturing structure is dominated by consumer industries, the reconstruction of which will require attention in future years. However, machinery building and the chemical industry are already



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strongly represented. The area along the Eastern Labe [Elbe] River is an outstanding agricultural region with extensive animal raising and beet sugar production. Center of the kraj is the imposing town of Hradec Kralove. However, Pardubice has more industry, which is growing fast because of the town's role as a railroad center. Most outstanding among the smaller towns are: Trutnov, Nachod, Havlickuv Brod, Ceska Trebova, and Usti nad Orlici.

The extensive kraj of Southern Moravia has the largest number of inhabitants. It was formed through the merger of the former kraj of Brno with the major portion of the kraj of Gottwaldov and Jihlava, and the separation of the Prostějov area from the kraj of Olomouc. In its large industry, machine building predominates the other industrial branches, with the exception of consumer goods being less well represented. Agriculturally most significant are the productive Moravian valleys. The new region is economically outstanding and has a strong core in the city of Brno. Among the other larger centers of importance are Gottwaldov, Kromeriz, Hodonin, the well-situated Uherske Hradiste in the East, and Jihlava, Trebic and Znojmo in the West. Prostějov also is a strong industrial center.

A wealth of coal and the heavy industry which grew on its base formed the basis for the economic region [oblast] of the Northern Moravian kraj. It was created from the former territory of the Ostrava and Olomouc krajs, excepting small territories in the west, and from the Valassky districts of the Gottwaldov kraj. Its powerful industrial economy represents almost one fifth of the industry of Czechoslovakia. Its fully developed industrial production is particularly centered in the Hana. Both parts of the region have close ties. The economic connections of the Northern Moravian region, well-situated in the center of the Republic, exceed by far the framework of the region. The strong core at Ostrava has a well-defined industrial specialization, particularly steel-making, and is an important unifying agent in the region. The region is very densely populated and has a number of large industrial centers among which the most outstanding are the following, aside from Ostrava and Olomouc: Karvina, Frydek-Mistek, Prerov, Sumperk, Opava, and others.

The new regional division of Slovakia was carried out by merging or twin krajs which had often been commonly associated with each other, even though Central Slovakia, in particular, cannot be considered as a single economic region [oblast].

The kraj of Western Slovakia originated from the former krajs of Bratislava and Nitra from which was



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separated the Northern and most industrial part of the Upper Nitra valley. It still has a predominantly agricultural character, with outstanding food and cattle growing conditions in the lowlands. Among noteworthy industrial centers are Trencin, Trnava, Komarno, Nove Zamky, and others. By far the strongest economic and cultural core of the region, and in fact of all Slovakia, is Bratislava. The capital city of Slovakia belongs to the most important industrial and population centers in the Republic and is in the process of further rapid development. In the industrial structure of the region the machine building, food, and chemical industries are most notable, while the most outstanding agricultural pursuits are mainly in the growing of wheat, corn, and the raising of hogs.

The town of Banska Bystrica was selected as the seat of the Central Slovak kraj. This region was created from the former krajs of Zilina and Banska Bystrica, to which portions of the upper Nitra Valley were attached. It has the character of an industrial region [oblast], the economy of which is centered in a system of valleys surrounded by mountains and forests. Chiefly represented is the machine-building industry, followed by steel, lumber, and textiles. As for its agricultural production, which is still of somewhat minor importance, the best conditions for future development are in the valleys of Lucenec and the Rimava River. The towns in the area of the Vah River are growing fast, particularly Martin; also Zilina, and Ruzomberok. Along the Hron River is the fast growing town of Banska Bystrica and the well-located town of Zvolen. The town of Lucenec is the core of the Southern part of the region.

The kraj of Eastern Slovakia originated by the simple merger of the districts of Kosice and Presov. To date it is by far the weakest economic region [oblast] of the Republic, both as far as the number of inhabitants as well as the degree of its economic development are concerned. The extensive plans for its development, based above all on its advantageous position near the border of the Soviet Union, the ample supply of labor and its generally advantageous natural conditions have already begun to materialize. The basis for the economic and cultural improvement of Eastern Slovakia is being furnished by the construction of the tremendous Eastern Slovak Steel Works which has already begun along with a number of connected enterprises. Together, these form the largest single investment of the third Five-Year-Plan. Also rapidly growing is Kosice, the center of the region. Following the [planned] water supply construction projects,

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the expansion of agricultural production will have great possibilities, especially in the fertile valley of the Risa River. Fast growing among the larger towns are Presov, Michalovce, and Poprad.

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The territorial reform of 1960 closes a significant historical epoch in the economic regionalization of Czechoslovakia. The costs as well as the results of the work proved that it was possible, this time, to utilize to a considerable extent the theoretical and practical, domestic, and foreign experiences of dividing a socialist country into new economic and administrative units.

Although political viewpoints asserted themselves over those of an economic and geographic nature, economic geographers, especially those of the CSAV had, for once, the opportunity to participate in the research work of the past years, as well in the final political negotiations. This participation has so far not been extensive. Neither was it fully exploited. However, the above-shown accords prove that past and present research work of Czechoslovak Geography contributed in larger measure than ever before to the new 1960 organization of Czechoslovak administrative regions [krajs] and districts [okresy] and to the selection of their centers. This is true for the proposals as far as these touched upon economic regions [oblasts] of class I and II and their economic cores.

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